

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8631

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03127

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CY, UK

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: NEW BRITISH OUTLOOK ON UNFICYP
REDUCTIONS

SUMMARY: FCO OFFICIAL INFORMALLY INDICATES PROBABLY
GREATER RECEPTIVITY TO UNFICYP CUTS BEYOND PHASE II
ONCE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT GETS GOING. WE AGREE TO
BRIEF HIM COMPREHENSIVELY ON USG VIEWS WHEN APPRO-
PRIATE MOMENT COMES. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, AND DURING THE INTER-REGNUM
BETWEEN BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, FCO SOUTH EUROPEAN DEPART-
MENT HEAD GOODISON RECENTLY CONFIDED TO US ON THE
POSSIBLE DIRECTION OF UNFICYP FINANCING IN HMG EYES.
FIRST HE ADVERTED TO OUR SUGGESTIONS IN THE PAST THAT
FURTHER REDUCTIONS WOULD BE ENVISAGED BY THE USG ONCE
PHASE II CUTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT. HE ASKED IF THIS
WAS STILL THE OUTLOOK AND IF WE WERE THINKING, ULTIMATE-
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LY, OF ESSENTIALLY AN OBSERVER FORCE, TO BOTH OF WHICH

WE REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THEN, GOODISON SAID, WE OUGHT TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH. GIVEN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL PINCH IN BRITAIN, HE COULD ENVISAGE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AT MINISTERIAL LEVELS FOR FURTHER COST-REDUCING SCHEMES.

2. FURTHERMORE, GOODISON POINTED OUT, JULIAN AMERY WAS NO LONGER JUNIOR MINISTER IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE. WHOEVER REPLACED HIM, HE WOULD NOT BE THE MAN WHO NEGOTIATED THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE CYPRIOT STATE, AND WAS UNLIKELY TO HAVE THE SAME STRONG PERSONAL VIEWS ON CYPRUS THAT AMERY DOES. HE WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE FLEXIBLE.

3. OF COURSE, GOODISON WARNED, BRITAIN STILL RELIES ON A VOLUNTEER ARMY ACTIVE IN NORTHERN IRELAND. RECRUITMENT FOR SUCH AN ARMY IS EASIER IF THERE ARE GOLDEN BEACHES SUCH AS THOSE ON CYPRUS IN SUPPORT OF THE RECRUITING PROGRAM. FURTHER UNFICYP REDUCTION WOULD CUT THE TOTAL OF BRITISH MILITARY PERSONNEL ON CYPRUS, THOUGH IT MIGHT ADMITTEDLY INCREASE NUMBERS OF BRITISH OFFICERS.

4. WE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO GOODISON (WHO IS A RELIABLE WEATHERVANE ON THESE MATTERS) FOR HIS INFORMAL COMMENTS. WE PROMISED TO ASK THE DEPARTMENT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF FURTHER REDUCTIONS WHEN THE TACTICAL MOMENT COMES. GOODISON (WHO WAS AWARE OF A PROBABLY DISCOURAGING REPLY FROM THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO SYG'S REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES IN CONNECTION WITH PHASE II) REMINDED US THAT HMG WAS IN NO GREAT HURRY TO TACKLE THE QUESTION OF FURTHER CUTS -- JUST LIKELY TO BE READIER THAN IN THE PAST WHEN THE RIGHT MOMENT COMES.

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